

DAVID R. CRAIG
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LORRAINE T. COSTELLO
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION



DATE: September 23, 2008

CONTACT: Thomas Foster, Media and Communications Coordinator, 410.638.3258 twfoster@harfordcountymd.gov

FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK RECOGNIZED AT RING FACTORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Bel Air, MD - September 23, 2008) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig, accompanied by Harford County Public Schools Chief Financial Officer John Markowski and members of the Board of Education, will recognize Farm to School Week on Friday, September 26 at Ring Factory Elementary. The county executive and Mr. Markowski will join students for lunch, which includes locally grown apples, plums and watermelons.

"Farming and agriculture have played a major role in this history and development of

Harford County for more than a century," remarked County Executive David R. Craig. "It is fitting that the Harford County Public Schools help us acknowledge Farm to School Week with a lunch that includes locally grown agricultural products," the county executive stated.

Students, faculty and staff will enjoy locally grown delicious apples from Wilson Mill Orchard, Shaws Orchard, Jones Produce and Wilson Farm Market. Approximately 100 bushels of fresh apples are being provided for the lunch.

One of the most dramatic developments in agriculture in recent years has been the rise in demand for locally-grown food products. A recent study by the Schaefer Center found that 76% of Marylanders are more likely to buy produce that is locally grown from a Maryland farm.

"We are grateful to the Harford County Public Schools for joining us to recognize and celebrate "Farm to School Week" this year," said C. John Sullivan, III of the Harford County Division of Agriculture. "Hopefully as we move forward more and more locally grown products will be available to students in our schools," Sullivan remarked.